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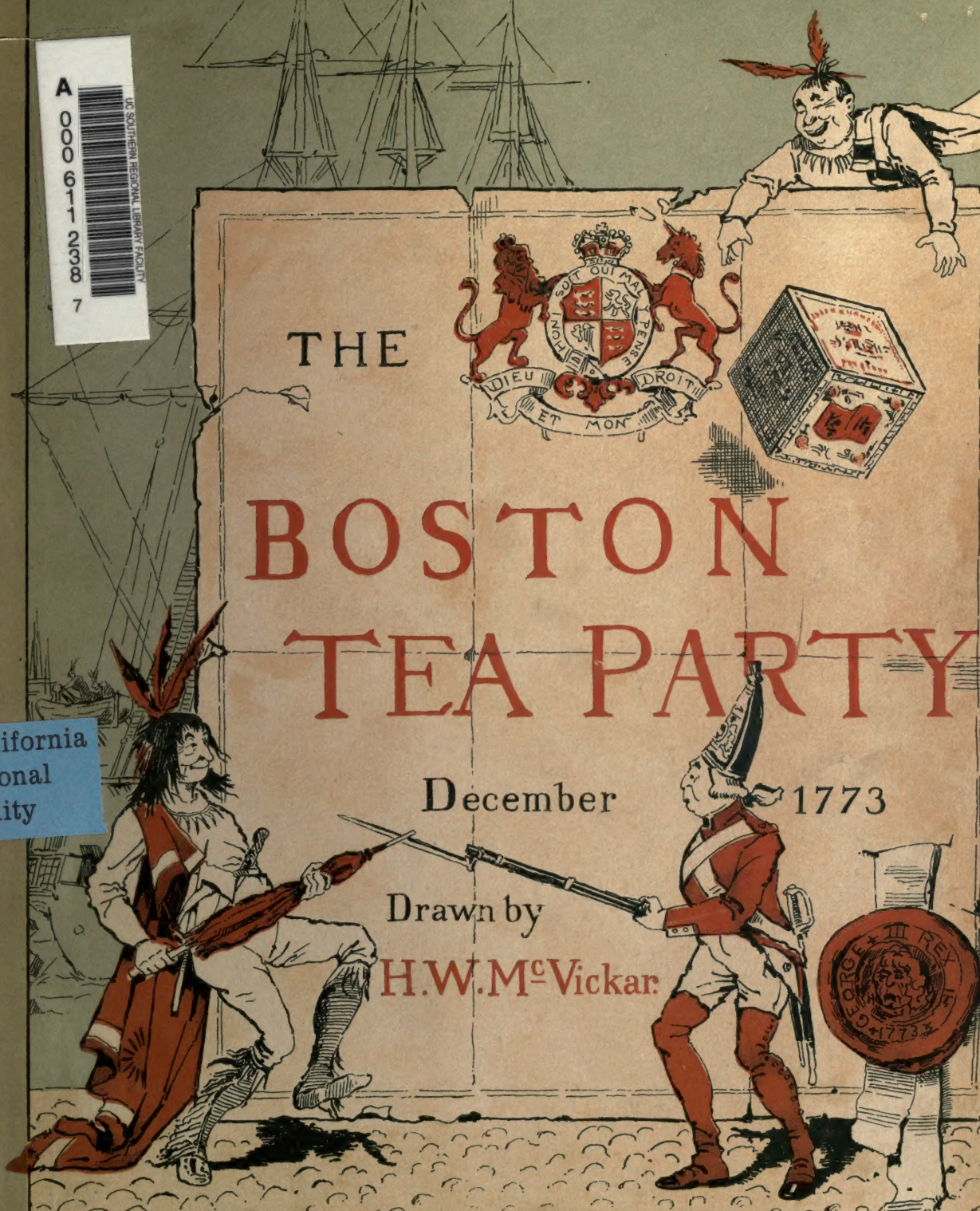
THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

December 1773

Drawn by
H.W.McVickar.

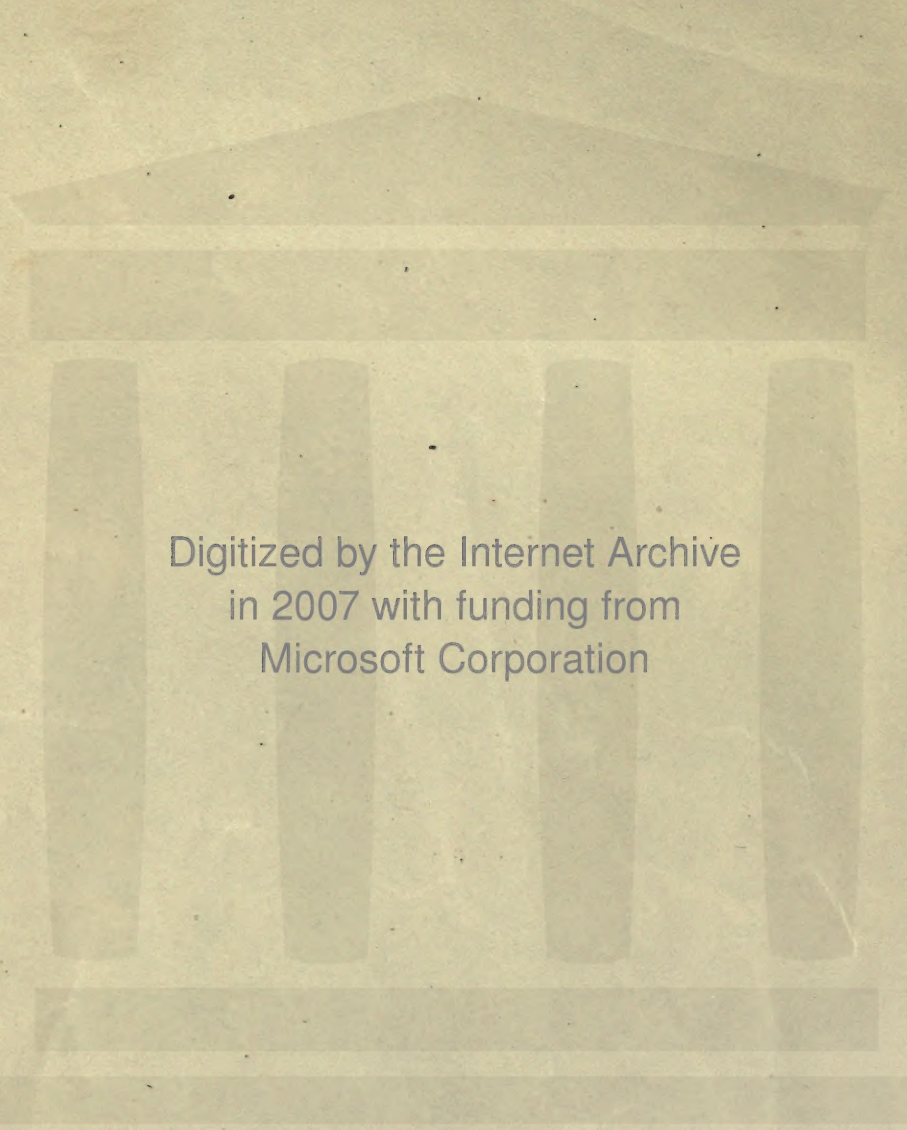
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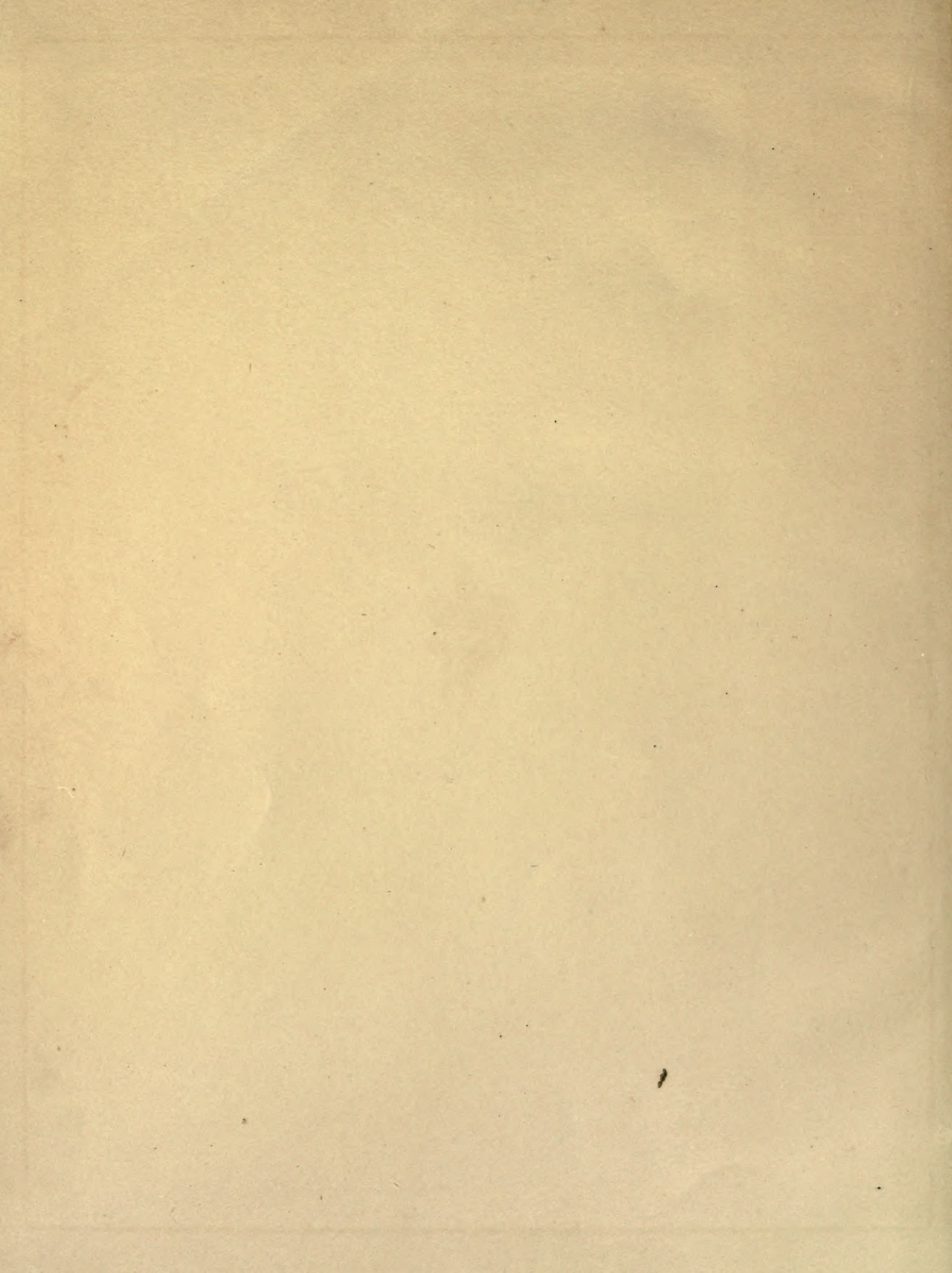




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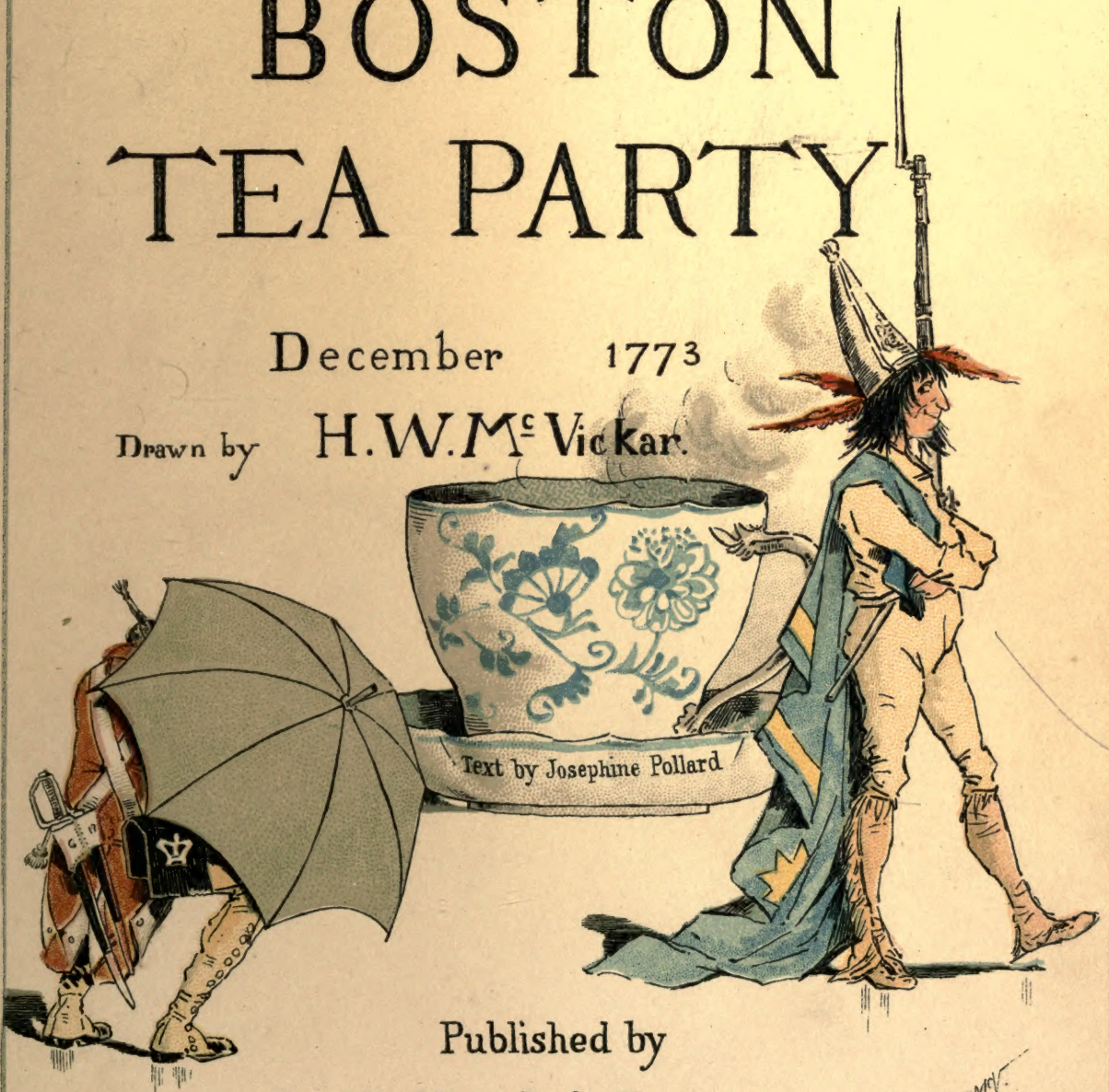




THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

December 1773

Drawn by H.W.M^c Vickar.



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KING GEORGE the THIRD sent out a DECREE,
 In SEVENTEEN hundred and SEVENTY THREE,
 THAT THREE PENCE ON EVERY POUND OF TEA
 THE VERY MODERATE TAX SHOULD BE
 FOR THE INFANT AMERICAN COLONY.



THOUGH SOME PROTESTED, THE KING SAID "GAMMON,"
 FOR HE WAS A LOYAL DISCIPLE OF MAMMON,
 AND DECLARED THAT TAXATION

WAS GOOD FOR A NATION

THAT NEEDED SOME LESSONS IN SUBJUGATION.

NO TAX ON SNUFF! AND NO TAX ON TEA!
 SUCH A STATE OF THINGS COULD NO LONGER BE!

AND THOSE WHO INDULGED IN SUCH LUXURIES, MUST,
 SAID THE LOYAL MONARCH, COME DOWN WITH THE DUST.



SO THE WORD WENT FORTH, AND IN BOSTON TOWN
 IT SWEEPED LIKE A HURRICANE FIERCELY DOWN;
 AND MEN AND WOMEN WERE GREATLY STIRRED
 BY THIS IMPOSITION OF GEORGE THE THIRD.
 TROUBLE WAS BREWING. THEIR TETE-A-TETE
 LOVER AND SWEETHEART ABBREVIATE;



III
HERE WAS HURRYING HERE,



There was hurrying there,



AND OMINOUS MUTTERINGS IN THE AIR,
 THE BELLS WERE RUNG IN THE OLD SOUTH STEEPLE
 TO THE GREAT ALARM OF THE NERVOUS PEOPLE,



H. M. Tucker

AND A MEETING WAS HELD, WHERE THE PROCLAMATION
WAS READ, THAT HAD CAUSED ALL THIS PERTURBATION.

INVITATIONS WERE POSTED UP
FOR THE CONSIGNEES TO TAKE A CUP
OF THE VERY BEST TEA,
OOLONG, OR BOHEA,
AT HIGH NOON UNDER THE LIBERTY TREE;



AND THE NOTICE BEREATH IN EVERY WORD,
WAS A SORT OF MENACE TO GEORGE THE THIRD,
FOR IT SAID (WHAT AN INSULT TO THE CROWN!)
"SHOW ME THE MAN THAT DARE TAKE THIS DOWN!"
HONOR AND LIBERTY WERE AT STAKE!
BUT THE CONSIGNEES REFUSED TO TAKE
THEIR CUP OF TEA OR THE TERMS SUGGESTED,
OR DO AS THE COUNCIL OF WAR REQUESTED,
'T WAS THE ONLY TOPIC OF CONVERSATION.

NOTHING WAS THOUGHT OF BUT THIS TAXATION,
AND THE EASIEST METHOD OF LIQUIDATION.

T-A-X

'T WAS ENOUGH TO VEX
THE SOULS OF THE MEN OF BOSTON TOWN,
TO READ THIS UNDER THE SEAL OF THE CROWN.



THEY WERE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF GEORGE THE THIRD;
SO THEY BELIEVED AND SO THEY AVERRED.
BUT THIS BRISTLING, OFFENSIVE PLACARD SET
IN THE WALLS, WAS WORSE THAN A BAYONET,

FOR IT AIMED AT A PRINCIPLE DEARER THAN LIFE;
 THREE PENCE A POUND ON TEA
 NOT MUCH OF A TAX COULD BE!
 BUT IT PROVED THE BEGINNING OF MIGHTY STRIFE.



AND LOVERS OF FREEDOM, WITH DIGNITY BROKE
 AWAY FROM THE WEIGHT OF KING GEORGE'S YOKE.
 A BURDEN OF TACKS

UPON THEIR BACKS

THEY MIGHT HAVE BORNE IN AN EASY WAY,
 BUT THE IRON HAD ENTERED THEIR SOULS, AND THEY
 DECLARED IN A STATE OF GREAT FERMENTATION
 'T WAS A WANTONLY CRUEL, UNJUST TAXATION.

WHAT WAS TO BE DONE! THERE WERE THOSE INDEED,
WHO WERE BOUND TO HAVE THE PERNICIOUS WEED.



RHEUMATIC OLD CHAPS,
WHO WOULD SIP BETWEEN NAPS;



AND MAIDERS,
WHO'D NEVER AGREE
TO GIVE UP
AN AFTERNOON TEA;



AND LIKEWISE THE GOSSIPY DAMES WHO WERE WILLING
FOR THE SAKE OF SUCH COMFORT TO SPEND THEIR LAST SHILLING.



AND SO 'T WAS DECIDED TO LAY AN EMBARGO
ON VESSELS THAT BROUGHT OVER TEA AS THEIR CARGO;
FOR IF ONCE THEY WERE LANDED, THEN TROUBLE WOULD FOLLOW,
AND NEITHER THE TAX NOR THE TEA WOULD THEY SWALLOW!



WITH ARTFUL DISGUISE,
AND GROTESQUE DECORATION,



LIKE SONS OF THE FOREST.
A POOR IMITATION.



A SCORE OR MORE MEN ON A NIGHT IN DECEMBER,
WENT FORTH TO A DEED THE WORLD WOULD REMEMBER.



IN EXHILARATION,
THEY TOOK UP THEIR STATION,



ON BOARD OF THE VESSELS AWAITING DEMURRAGE,
 AND NO ONE COULD QUESTION THEIR SHARE OF "DUTCH COURAGE."
 SOON OTHERS JOINED IN WITH AN INTEREST HEARTY
 INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE FAMOUS TEA PARTY,
 DECLARING WITH WAR-WHOOPS OF SAVAGE DELIGHT,
 "BOSTON HARBOR SHALL FURNISH THE TEA-POT TO-NIGHT."

THEY BOARDED THE SHIPS
THAT WERE THEN IN THEIR SLIPS,



INDIGNANTLY SEIZING THE BOXES OF TEA,

AND MANY A CHEST
OF THE CHINAMAN'S BEST



SLIPPED QUICKLY OVERBOARD INTO THE SEA.

IF ANY ATTEMPTED TO CARRY OFF BOOTY,
WHICH HE MIGHT SECURE WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUTY,



HIS THEIVISH ENDEAVORS MOST CERTAINLY FAILED
THROUGH A SUMMARY DOCKET,
THAT CUT OFF THE POCKET,
CONTAINING THE TEA, AND THE COAT WAS CURTAILED.



KING GEORGE THE THIRD WHO MADE THE DECREE
 TO RELIEVE THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,
 WOULD HAVE SWORN RIGHT ROYALLY, I OPINE,
 COULD HE HAVE BEHELD THAT FLEET IN LINE,
 THAT NEVER HAD GIVEN A COUNTERSIGN!
 FOUR OR FIVE HUNDRED BOXES OF TEA
 SAILING SO JAUNTILY OUT TO SEA.



THE WORD THE COLONISTS SENT, WAS NOT



AT THE MERCY OF ANY HIGHWAYMAN'S SHOT;



NOR WERE THERE TELEGRAPHS TO CONVEY
THE PEOPLE'S MESSAGE WITH LESS DELAY;



BUT TEDIUOUSLY SLOW
 THE SHIPS MUST GO
 ON THE HOMEWARD TRACK,
 ONLY TAKING BACK
 AMERICA'S ENVOY, WHO ON LANDING, STRAIGHT
 PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE PALACE GATE.



DEMANDING AN AUDIENCE THERE AND THEN,
 WITH THE FIRST OF ENGLISH GENTLEMEN,
 WHO THOUGHT HE'D A RIGHT A TAX TO IMPOSE,
 ON ALL HIS SUBJECTS WHENEVER HE CHOSE.



HE WAS READY TO BURST WITH RAGE NO DOUBT
WHEN THE CLERK IN A LOUD VOICE READ ABOUT

McVicker

THE BOSTON TEA-PARTY;—FOR THEN THE KING
PERCEIVED HE HADN'T DONE JUST THE THING
TO PLEASE THE AMERICAN COLONY,



AMC

THE INJURED PARTY WHO WENT OUT TO TEA,
IN SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THREE!

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William F. Knight
MY BOOK

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